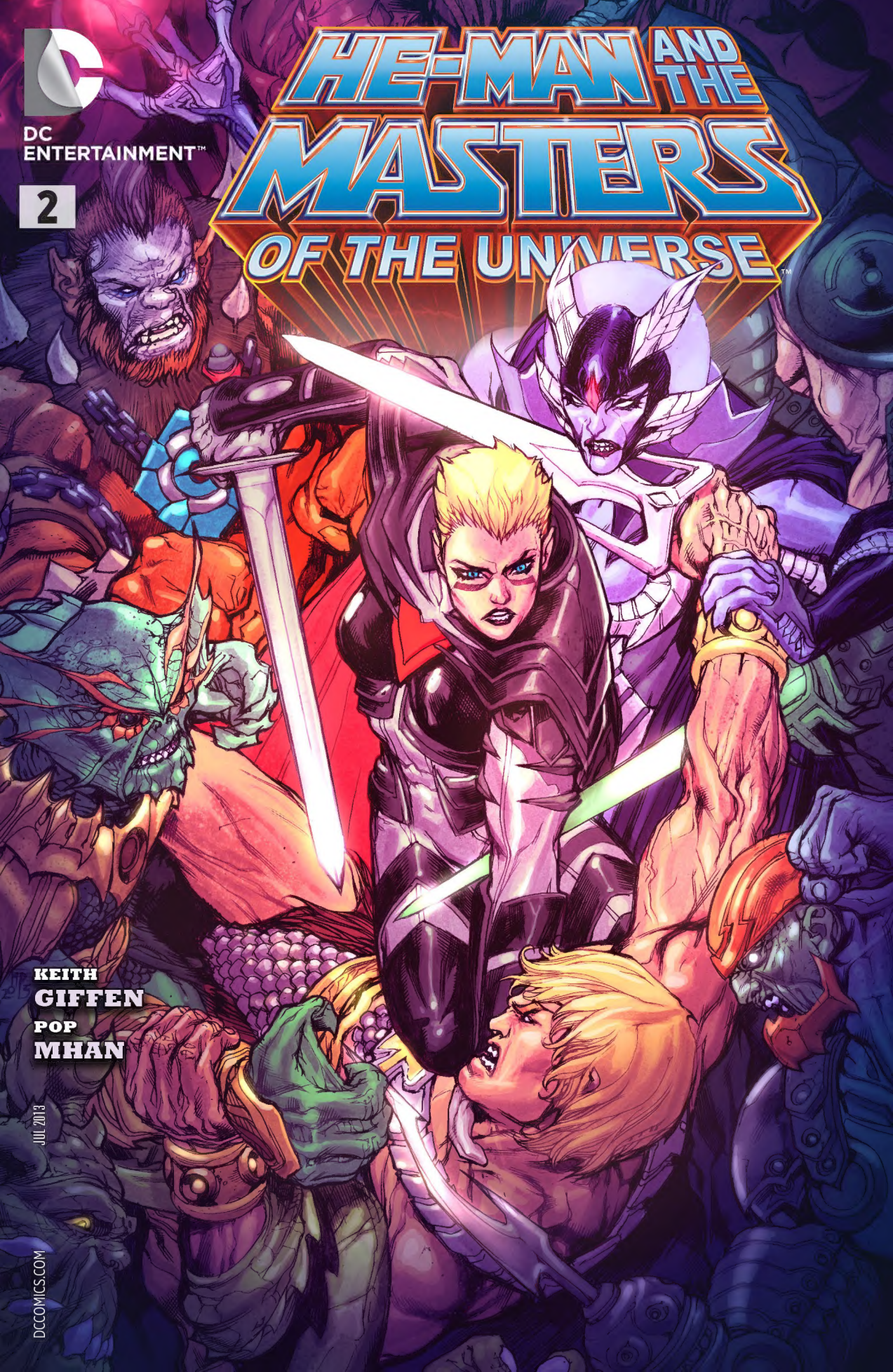
DC ENTERTAINMENT™
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HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™
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JUL 2013
DCCOMICS.COM

PAST IMPERFECT

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YOU KNOW HER?!
KNEW HER...ONLY AS A DREAM.
SEE?! "IMAGINARY FRIEND!" WHAT DID I TELL YO--
ENOUGH! I DID NOT COME HERE TO TALK!
APPARENTLY NOT. DARE I ASK?
SHTUM
SLAVES ASK ONLY HOW THEY CAN BETTER SERVE.
CREATOR'S GRACE! WILL YOU GUT HER AND BE DONE WITH IT!?
YOU SHOULD HEED YOUR WOMAN'S ADVICE.
WOMAN? MINE? TEELA?!
TWO AGAINST ONE? IS THAT THE WAY IT IS DONE IN THIS REALM?
SHE'S RIGHT. GO SIT IN THE CORNER.

TEELA, NO! SHE'S TOO POWERFUL FOR YOU TO--
I'M PRETENDING SHE'S YOU.
WHAT? DID YOU THINK I'D FORGOTTEN ALL OF THOSE RED HAIR COMMENTS?
ENOUGH!
YOU'VE GOT SPIRIT, GIRL, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.
A PITY YOUR PROWESS FALLS FAR SHORT OF THAT SPIRIT.
YEEK!
...
THWOK
TEELA!

OH... THAT WAS SMART.

AT LEAST TRY TO LAND ON THEIR GUYS!

...FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO.

OKAY...DEEP BREATHS. STOP REACTING ON A GUT LEVEL AND GET IT TOGETHER!
HEADS UP!
I SHOULD HAVE BLOWN HER FROM HER PERCH ON THE WAY DOWN. IS SHE ALWAYS SO SHRILL?
YOU CARE ENOUGH TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR HER YET DENY SHE'S YOUR WOMAN.
THAT MAKES YOU EITHER VERY NOBLE OR VERY FOOLISH.
A PITY YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO FIND OUT WHICH!

I THINK WE'VE HEARD MORE THAN ENOUGH FROM YO--
EEYAGH!
SNAK
FOR ONCE I AGREE WITH HER. ENOUGH FROM YOU!
THWAK
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
WHAT? YOU WEREN'T DONE DANCING WITH HER YET?
I WAS WAITING FOR AN OPENING!
IN THAT CASE, YOU'RE WELCOME.
KING RANDOR HAS ORDERED A WITHDRAWAL!
HE WHAT?!
THEY'RE KILLING CIVILIANS TO FORCE SURRENDER!
GRAYSKULL! MUSTER AT CASTLE GRAYSKULL!
HEY! WHOA! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...
#@*&#!!
HUH...HE MUST HAVE CHOSEN THE SHORT STRAW.

AS LONG AS WE FIGHT, INNOCENTS DIE. IS THAT IT?
ALL FOR THE GLORY OF THE EMINENCE! THERE CAN BE NO GREATER HONOR!
MADNESS.
SUICIDE?! OR PERHAPS HOPE THAT I WILL CHOOSE TO BE MERCIFUL?
NEITHER.
RRRRAHR

EEYYEEEE!
QUICKLY, OLD FRIEND!
THWUD
TO GRAYSKULL!
AND WOE TO ANY WHO STAND IN OUR WAY!
MISTRESS!
FETCH A RESTORATION MAGE AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
FOR THIS AFFRONT I WILL GRIND HIS BONES TO DUST AND FORCE-FEED HIM TO HIS BEAST!
LAY HANDS ON ME AND YOU DIE WHERE YOU STAND!
THERE WILL BE A RECKONING!

Castle Grayskull.
MEKANECK?! YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
HALF A DOZEN OF THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE MANAGE TO MAKE IT HERE AND ONE OF THEM IS MEKANECK?!
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.
NO, YOU POINTED OUT THAT NOT KEEPING HER IN THE LOOP COULD HAVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES.
GOT THAT RIGHT.
TEELA, WHAT HAS MEKANECK EVER DONE TO YOU?
IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, IT'S JUST... IF WE'RE GOING TO BE FIGHTING OFF WHOEVER THOSE CLOWNS ARE, DID IT HAVE TO BE MEKANECK MAKES IT HERE?

YOU CAN'T BE IMPLYING THAT HE SHOULD HAVE--
HE STRETCHES HIS NECK! COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WITH...OH, I DON'T KNOW...A USEFUL TALENT!?
NO. I AM NOT HAVING THIS CONVERSATION. EVERY ABLE-BODIED FIGHTER IS--
HE STRETCHES... HIS NECK!
THAT OUGHT TO SERVE. JUST STAY OFF YOUR FEET FOR A FEW DAYS AND YOU SHOULD BE GOOD AS NEW.
THANKS.
OKAY, SO WHO WERE THOSE GUYS AND HOW BAD IS IT?
HOW ABOUT WE START WITH YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND?
WHAT DOES AN IMAGINARY FRIEND HAVE TO DO WITH--
HOLD THAT THOUGHT. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET INTERESTING.
I WAS... OBVIOUSLY I WAS...UM...
IMAGIN-- YOU HAD AN IMAGINARY FRIEND?
I... THOUGHT SO.

IF I CAN...CAN I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION?
SMOOTH DODGE.
BITE ME.
YOU WERE ALL AT ETERNOS. YOU WERE ALL THERE. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. THE EXTENT OF IT, HOWEVER...
...THE FAR SEERS ACCOMPANYING ME CAST A TERRITORIAL WEFT. WHAT THEY SAW WAS... UNBEARABLE.
...ETERNIA HAS FALLEN.
PLEASE. THIS IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH. LISTEN AND LEARN. THE TIME FOR TALK WILL COME SOON ENOUGH.
ATTEND...
SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED ON EVERY CITY AND TOWN IN ETERNIA. THE SMALLER VILLAGES HAVE THUS FAR BEEN SPARED. THAT WILL NOT LAST.
THE TECHNOLOGY USED TO MOUNT THE ATTACKS IS ALIEN TO US...INSTANTANEOUS TELEPORTATION IS THE CLOSEST WE CAN COME TO DESCRIBING IT.
A SCIENCE-BASED VARIANT ON OUR OWN SHIFT CONJURIES.
THE LOSS OF LIFE IS...STAGGERING. ENTIRE ARMIES HAVE BEEN DECIMATED, ENTIRE CIVILIAN POPULATIONS EXTERMINATED.
THEY USE CIVILIAN DEATHS TO FORCE SURRENDER. ETERNOS WAS SURRENDERED FOR JUST THAT REASON, AS WAS EVERY MAJOR POPULATION CENTER ON ETERNIA. MANY OF OUR BRETHREN LET THEMSELVES BE TAKEN RATHER THAN ENDANGER THOSE THEY'VE SWORN TO PROTECT.

THE FOE IS *THAT* MERCILESS. THE FOE IS *THAT* RELENTLESS.
DOES THIS FOE HAVE A NAME, IF ONLY SO WE CAN CURSE IT AS WE SEND HIS MINIONS TO WHATEVER HELL WILL HAVE THEM?
...
HORDAK. THE FOE IS HORDAK.
HORDAK?!
THE MYTH?
PREPOSTEROUS!
THEY WERE LED BY A WOMAN, NOT A...A VAMPIRIC CREATURE OF LEGEND!
NOT MYTH NOR LEGEND NOR FAIRY TALE! HORDAK *IS!*
SEEN HIM WITH YOUR OWN EYES, HAVE YOU?
I WAS, WHEN BUT A CHILD, NEAR ABDUCTED BY ONE OF HIS MINIONS.
HE WAS *WHAT?!*

...FORTY-FOURTH THROUGH FIFTY-SECOND BATTALIONS HAVE SEALED OFF COASTAL ACCESS. ETERNIA IS EFFECTIVELY LANDLOCKED.
ENFORCEMENT CELLS ARE ROUNDING UP MAGES, BOTH CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED. ERADICATION PROTOCOLS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED...
...AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN HARROWED TO 47 PERCENT EFFECTIVE.
EXCELLENT. HUNGRY MASSES ARE COMPLIANT MASSES.
RESISTANCE?
ISOLATED POCKETS. *THIS* MIGHT INTEREST YOU.

WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
A SUBSTANTIAL GATHERING OF ETERNIAN FORCES. THE HOLD IS CALLED CASTLE GRAYSKULL.
GRAYSKULL... AS IN KING GRAYSKULL?
HOW... APPROPRIATE. THEY CHOOSE TO MAKE THEIR FINAL STAND IN THE HOME OF THE ONE WHO SET THESE EVENTS IN MOTION SO LONG AGO.
WE BELIEVE SO.
THERE IS A SENSE OF CLOSURE IN THAT. I APPROVE.
FAR CAST THE LOCATION OF THIS CASTLE GRAYSKULL TO THIRTY-FIRST AND EIGHTY-THIRD OVERKILL BATTALIONS! CONTAIN BUT DO NOT ENGAGE!
DO WE HAVE EYES IN THE SKY?
LIMITED AI REFRACTION LENSES HAVE BEEN NUDGED INTO ORBIT. INTERDIMENSIONAL PASSAGE STRESS WILL KEEP THEM FROM OPTIMUM FOR ANOTHER DAY OR TWO.
DO THEY SEE AT ALL?
THE IMAGES ARE UNCLEAR--
HAVE THEM FOCUS ON THE CASTLE AND ITS PERIMETER. TWO-MILE DIAMETER, FULL CIRCUMFERENCE.
IF IT MOVES I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS!
NO ONE GETS OUT ALIVE! ESPECIALLY NOT THE WARRIOR AND HIS STRUMPET!
MARK THEM AS MINE AND MINE ALONE!

FATHER?
ADAM. SO...DO THEY THINK ME MAD? DELUDED? UNFIT TO SIT UPON THE THRONE?
NOTHING SO DRASTIC.
THEY BELIEVE THEN?
I WOULDN'T GO *THAT* FAR.
THEY KNOW YOU'D NEVER DECEIVE THEM...NOT DELIBERATELY.
"DELIBERATELY" BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD?
THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?
THE MURAL FROM ETERNOS PALACE. GAVE ME MORE NIGHTMARES THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER.
AND NOW HE'S BACK ON ETERNIA? THIS HORDAK?
NO. WE CAN BE GRATEFUL FOR *THAT* MUCH, AT LEAST. GRAYSKULL'S ENCHANTMENT BINDS HIM TO HIS NETHER REALM.
HIS *MINIONS*, HOWEVER...
IT'S ALMOST TOO MUCH TO TAKE IN. A PAN-DIMENSIONAL VAMPIRE, ARMIES THAT ARE MORE MACHINE THAN MAN...
HOW ABOUT A GIANT GREEN CAT THAT YOU CAN RIDE AROUND ON? OR A MAN MADE OF MOSS WHO CAN CONTROL PLANTS? OR--
POINT TAKEN.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DEAL WITH THE REALITY WITH WHICH WE ARE PRESENTED. WE HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH A NEW ADDITION TO OUR REALITY. OR SHOULD I SAY AN OLD ONE REBORN...
YOU SAID YOU WERE ALMOST TAKEN--
AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN IF KELDOR HADN'T BEEN THERE TO FEND THE CREATURE OFF.
KELDOR? SKELETOR?! SKELETOR SAVED YOU?!
SKELETOR WAS YET TO BE. BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY.
THEY'VE SENT AN EMISSARY!

HAD TO BE HER.
YOU'VE MET?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
YOU PRESUME MUCH, COMING HERE UNBIDDEN, EVEN IF AS A PROJECTIO--
NO, NOT YOU. HIM.
BUT... I AM NOT KING.
I DON'T THINK THAT MATTERS TO HER. HEAR HER OUT.
SPEAK YOUR PIECE.
SIMPLY PUT, SURRENDER AND THEY ALL LIVE. WE ARE THE SUPERIOR FORCE. WE WILL PREVAIL.
THEY? AM I TO ASSUME THE OFFER DOESN'T EXTEND TO ME?

WELL CAUGHT. YOU... YOU AND I WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
WILL WE?
SLAVES OBEY THEIR MASTERS. I WILL COMMAND IT OF YOU.
I'M TO BE YOUR SLAVE? TO WHAT DO I OWE SUCH AN "HONOR"?
I HAD ALL HEALED BUT FOR THE ONE. ONLY YOUR BLOOD WILL WASH IT AWAY.
YOUR WRETCHED BEAST WILL BE BROUGHT FORTH AND BUTCHERED. YOUR SURRENDER WILL BE WRIT IN ITS BLOOD.
YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.
SURRENDER OR EVERYONE DIES. THERE WILL BE NO SECOND OFFER, NO BARGAINING FOR THE LIVES OF THOSE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO STAND WITH YOU.
SURRENDER OR DIE.
OOOOHH... SCARY!
ACTUALLY, THE SCAR BRINGS OUT THE COLOR IN HER EYES.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT. LOVELY. JUST LOVELY.

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE INTERESTED.
JUST AS WELL. ARROGANT SLAVES DIE SOONER THAN LATER.
YOU HAVE TWELVE HOURS TO MAKE PEACE WITH WHATEVER WRETCHED GODS WILL HAVE YOU!
CHARMING.
PICKED UP ON THAT, DID YOU?
HARD TO MISS.
IMAGINARY FRIEND, EH? I THINK IT'S TIME I HEARD THAT TALE.
NOT MUCH TO TELL.
LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF THAT.
...MARLENA...
Next issue: TEELA'S TALE
Trust us, you won't want to miss this one!